

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. James Balazs (Reg. No. 47,401) on 11/22/2006.
- 3.
4. The application has been amended as follows:

***In Claim 1:***

The phrase: "and, while compressed ... the stack area" (lines 17-21) has been changed to:

--with said upstream and downstream compression jaws, and while compressed, strapping same with a strapping material, wherein the step of conveying the discreet stack (7) into the strapping station (12) includes moving the two compression jaws (10,11) into a stack area--;

The phrase: "wherein, for strapping," (line <sup>24</sup>22) has been changed to: --wherein the step of strapping includes--.

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***In Claim 2:***

The phrase: "wherein, by tightening the loop," (line 2) has been changed to: --further comprising tightening the loop as--;

The phrase: "the strapped stack (7) is separated" (lines 3-4) has been changed to: --separating the strapped stack (7)--.

***In Claim 11:***

The phrase: "the stack ends" (line <sup>3</sup>~~2~~) has been changed to: --the discreet stack ends--.

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***In Claim 12:***

The phrase: "position" (line 9) has been changed to: --positioning--.

***In Claim 16:***

The phrase: "are" on line 4 has been deleted.

***Reason for Allowance***

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- The prior art of record fails to disclose and/or teach a method for producing and strapping recumbent stacks of printed products as claimed in claim 1; in particular, the prior art of record fails to teach a method comprising, among other steps, the steps of: positioning end plate at a downstream and an upstream end of each discreet stack; conveying the discreet stack into the strapping station comprising moving the upstream and downstream compression jaws into a stack area from a first side of the conveying surface in an essentially horizontal motion transverse to the stacking direction, and strapping the discreet stack comprising preparing a loop of strapping material on a second side of the conveying surface opposite its first side and positioning the loop around the discreet stack through an essentially horizontal relative motion transverse to the stacking direction between the loop and the discreet stack held by the compression jaws.